

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A photofinishing processing solution supply cartridge comprising:
 - at least one processing solution chamber for holding processing solution therein; and
 - at least one spent solution chamber adapted to collect waste solution from a photofinishing system associated with said supply cartridge, said at least one spent solution chamber comprising a silver removal device that reduces an amount of leachable silver contained in the spent solution.
2. A supply cartridge according to claim 1, wherein said at least one spent solution chamber is removably attached to said supply cartridge.
3. A supply cartridge according to claim 1, wherein said processing solution chamber and said spent solution chamber are made of a flexible material to permit a displacement of volume within said supply cartridge as said at least one processing solution chamber empties and said at least one spent solution chamber fills with solution.
4. A photofinishing processing solution supply cartridge comprising:
 - at least one processing solution chamber for holding processing solution therein; and
 - at least one spent solution chamber adapted to collect waste solution from a photofinishing system associated with said supply cartridge, said at least one spent solution chamber comprising a silver precipitating agent, said silver precipitating agent being adapted to react with the spent solution in said spent solution chamber to form a removable silver sludge in the spent solution chamber.
5. A supply cartridge according to claim 4, wherein said processing solution chamber and said spent solution chamber are made of a

flexible material to permit a displacement of volume within said supply cartridge as said at least one processing solution chamber empties and said at least one spent solution chamber fills with solution.

6. A photofinishing processing solution supply cartridge comprising:

at least one processing solution chamber for holding processing solution therein and supplying processing solution to a photofinishing system which is fluidly associated with said supply cartridge; and

a silver removal device for removing silver from spent processing solution of the photofinishing system associated with said supply cartridge to provide a substantially leachable silver-free spent solution.

7. A processing system comprising:

a processor for processing photosensitive media therein; and

a processing solution supply cartridge adapted to supply processing solution to said processor and collect spent processing solution from said processor, said processing solution supply cartridge having at least one chamber for holding the processing solution therein and a silver removal device for reducing an amount of leachable silver in the spent processing solution to provide a spent solution that is substantially free of leachable silver.

8. A processing system comprising:

a processor for processing photosensitive media therein; and

a processing solution supply cartridge adapted to supply processing solution to said processor and collect spent processing solution from said processor, said processing solution supply cartridge comprising at least one processing solution chamber for holding processing solution therein, and at least one spent solution chamber for collecting spent processing solution from the processor, said at least one spent solution chamber comprising a silver removal device that reduces an amount of leachable silver contained in the spent solution to provide a spent solution that is substantially free of leachable silver.

9. A processing system comprising:
a processor for processing photosensitive media therein; and
a processing solution supply cartridge adapted to supply processing solution to said processor and collect spent processing solution from said processor, said processing solution supply cartridge comprising at least one processing solution chamber for holding processing solution therein, and at least one spent solution chamber adapted to collect spent solution from the processor, said at least one spent solution chamber comprising a silver precipitating agent, said silver precipitating agent being adapted to react with the spent solution in said spent solution chamber to form a removable silver sludge in said spent solution chamber.

10. A processing system according to claim 9, wherein said processing solution chamber and said spent solution chamber are made of a flexible material to permit a displacement of volume within said supply cartridge as said at least one processing solution chamber empties and said at least one spent solution chamber fills with solution.

11. A method of removing silver from photofinishing processing solution, the method comprising the steps of:

feeding spent processing solution from a photofinishing system to a supply cartridge, said supply cartridge having incorporated therein at least one chamber adapted to hold fresh processing solution and at least one further chamber adapted to collect spent processing solution; and

reducing an amount of leachable silver in the spent processing solution collected in the at least one further chamber.

12. A method according to claim 11, wherein said reducing step comprises:

providing a silver precipitating agent in said at least one further chamber; and

permitting a reaction of the spent processing solution and the silver precipitating agent in said at least one further chamber to create a silver sludge in said at least one further chamber.

13. A method according to claim 11, wherein said reducing step provides for a substantially leachable silver-free spent processing solution, said method comprising the further step of discharging the substantially leachable silver-free spent processing solution from said supply cartridge.

14. A method according to claim 12, comprising the further step: removing the silver sludge from the at least one further chamber.

15. A method according to claim 11, comprising the further step of:
detaching the supply cartridge from the photofinishing system.

16. A method of processing photosensitive media, the method comprising the steps of:

supplying processing solution from a supply cartridge to a processor for processing of photosensitive media in the processor, said supply cartridge having a first area for holding fresh processing solution;

feeding spent processing solution from the processor to a second area of the supply cartridge; and

reducing an amount of leachable silver in the spent processing solution in the second area of the supply cartridge.

17. A method according to claim 16, wherein said reducing step provides for a substantially leachable silver-free spent processing solution, said method further comprising discharging the substantially leachable silver-free spent processing solution from the second area of said supply cartridge.

18. A method according to claim 16, wherein said reducing step comprises:

providing a silver precipitating agent in said second area of said supply cartridge; and

permitting a reaction of the spent processing solution and the silver precipitating agent in said second area of the supply cartridge to form a silver sludge in said second area of the supply cartridge.

19. A method according to claim 18, comprising the further step: removing the silver sludge from the second area of the supply cartridge.

20. A method according to claim 16, comprising the further step of:

detaching the supply cartridge from the photofinishing system.

21. A method according to claim 16, wherein said first area comprises at least one processing solution chamber and said second area comprises at least one spent solution chamber.

22. A method according to claim 21, wherein said at least one processing solution chamber and said at least one spent solution chamber are made of a flexible material to permit a displacement of volume in said supply cartridge as said processing solution chamber empties of processing solution and said spent solution chamber fills with spent solution.

23. A container for photographic processing solution, the container comprising:

a rigid and reusable outer shell which is adapted to be opened to access an interior of the shell; and

at least two internal chambers positioned in said interior of said shell and accessible when the outer shell is opened, a first chamber of said at least

two internal chambers being adapted to supply fresh working strength processing solution, a concentrated mixture of processing solution or cleaning solution to a processing machine which is operationally associated with said container, and a second chamber of said at least two internal chambers being adapted to collect spent processing solution or cleaning solution from the processing machine and reduce an amount of leachable silver in the spent processing solution or cleaning solution.

24. A container according to claim 23, wherein said at least two internal chambers are made of a flexible material.

25. A container according to claim 23, wherein said at least two internal chambers are made of a rigid material.

26. A container according to claim 23, further comprising baffles positioned inside of each of said at least two internal chambers.

27. A container according to claim 23, wherein said second chamber comprises a silver recovery agent.

28. A container according to claim 23, wherein said second chamber comprises a precipitating agent.

29. A container according to claim 28, wherein said precipitating reagent comprises a TMT or steel wool.

30. A container according to claim 23, wherein said second chamber comprises a silver removal device which is made from an ion exchange material.

31. A solution container for a photoprocessing machine which is adapted to supply a mixture of concentrated processing solution, water and/or

working strength processing solution to the photoprocessing machine, and collect spent solution from the photoprocessing machine, said container comprising a rigid and reusable outer shell.

32. A method of processing photographic media comprising the steps of:

fluidly connecting a container to a photoprocessing machine, said container comprising a rigid and reusable outer shell which is adapted to hold processing solution and collect spent solution;

supplying processing solution from the container to the photoprocessing machine;

collecting spent solution from the photoprocessing machine in said container; and

treating said spent solution to create a spent solution which is substantially free of leachable silver.

33. A method according to claim 32, wherein said processing solution is at least one of a mixture of concentrated chemistry, working strength chemistry or water.

34. A method of supplying photographic processing solution to a processor, the method comprising the steps of:

placing a processing solution supply cartridge having processing solution therein on a movable fixture member in a manner in which a valve of the supply cartridge and the supply cartridge are in an upright position; and

moving the fixture member having the supply cartridge thereon to an operating position in which the supply cartridge is placed in an inverted position to permit a supply of processing solution through said valve from the supply cartridge to a processor which is fluidly connected to said supply cartridge.

35. A method according to claim 34, wherein said moving step comprises rotating said fixture member having said supply cartridge thereon about a pivot point.

36. A method according to claim 34, wherein after said supply cartridge is empty of processing solution, the method comprising the further step of:

moving the fixture member so that the valve and supply cartridge are returned to said upright position.